



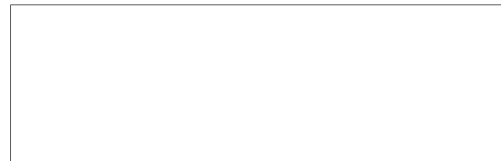
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Congressional Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20505

Telephone: 3 July 86

TO: OCA Registry

Bernie Raimo, HPSCI Staffer, was briefed
by the undersigned via secure phone at
1315 hours on 17 July 1986.



Deputy Director, House Affairs
Office of Congressional Affairs

Attachment

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HSCC

Record

OCA 86-2509

Philippines: Status of the Kidnapping of
American Missionary in Mindanao
Noon EDT 17 July

25X1 US Embassy sources within the Philippine Government have verified earlier speculation that the abduction of Rev. Brian Lawrence by Moslem rebels on 12 July was engineered by former Lanao del Sur governor Mohamad Ali Dimaporo and his nephew Ismail Dimaporo. According to Embassy sources, Mohamad Ali hopes to embarrass and discredit local officials appointed by President Aquino and to promote Ismail's succession to the governorship by stage-managing Lawrence's release. [REDACTED]

25X1 In an audiotape reportedly made on Tuesday and released on Wednesday, Lawrence identified his captors as members of the "Mindanao Independence Movement" and said that they were demanding a promise of political autonomy for Mindanao in return for his release. Lawrence stated that emissaries of Mohamad Ali Dimaporo were present with his captors. He also said that he was being treated well and had not been harmed. [REDACTED]

25X1 Both President Aquino and a Foreign Ministry official working directly on the case have told the Embassy that they expect Lawrence's release to be secured soon--possibly within 24 hours. The ranking Philippine military commander in Mindanao has told the press that a negotiating team composed of Mohamad Ali Dimaporo, a local Moslem princess, and Lawrence's American religious superior has been formed at the demand of Lawrence's captors. According to the press, the same Moslem princess was involved in negotiating the release this morning of the 10 Filipino Carmelite nuns who had been held since 11 July by what is now generally believed to be a separate Moslem rebel group. Our Embassy reports that Lawrence's clerical superior is involved in the negotiations in Marawi City--the site of Lawrence's kidnapping--but that Mohamad Ali Dimaporo is in Manila. [REDACTED]

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A34 THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1986 ... 22

THE WASHINGTON POST

Kidnapers Release 10 Filipino Nuns

Abducted American Missionary Says on Tape That He Is Well

United Press International

MARAWI, The Philippines, July 17 (Thursday)—Moslem rebels today released unharmed 10 Roman Catholic nuns kidnaped last week, officials said. But there were conflicting reports on whether ransom had been paid.

Military and civilian officials said they also expected the release soon of American missionary Brian Lawrence, 30, of Madison, Wis.

Lawrence was abducted by armed men on Saturday in Marawi, the provincial capital of the predominantly Moslem province of Lanao del Sur.

"I will bring him out by Monday," said Tahirata Alonto Lucman, an influential Moslem who negotiated the release of the nuns.

Lawrence, in a taped message released Wednesday, said that he is well and that his captors were not interested in ransom but want independence for the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, Washington Post special correspondent Abby Tan reported from Manila.

Looking tired but in good spirits, the nuns were turned over to Moslem elders at dawn in the town of Lumba Yanagi, outside Marawi, 500 miles south of Manila. Lucman said the emissaries hand-

ed the kidnapers 200,000 pesos, worth \$10,000, raised by local officials. Negotiators also gave the kidnapers two U.S.-made M16 rifles and two walkie-talkies and promised to work for a grant of amnesty, Lucman said.

But the regional military commander in northern Mindanao, Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Gutang, said that no ransom had been paid.

"We were treated very well, just like guests," Sister Marie Magdaleine Ledesma, mother superior of the freed nuns, told reporters in Marawi.

The 10 nuns of the Carmelite order were abducted at gunpoint

Friday night from their Marawi hill-top convent and taken away from the lakeshore city aboard a boat.

Ledesma said the kidnapers claimed to belong to a faction of the Moslem separatist group, the Moro National Liberation Front, leading a war for self-rule for the nation's 5 million Moslems, most of whom live in the south.

Lawrence, a Protestant minister, warned in a letter to his wife, released yesterday by officials of Mindanao State University in Marawi, that if the military mounted an operation to rescue him, his kidnapers would kill him. The letter was dated Sunday and received by his wife on Tuesday.

Earlier, Tan also reported.

The captive missionary said on the tape released by military authorities and played on several radio stations monitored in Manila. "This is Brian Lawrence. It is Tues-

day afternoon. I want to inform my family, especially my wife, Carol Ann, that I am fine. I am treated well and I have plenty of food. I have not been harmed physically in any way."

Provincial military authorities said the tape was delivered by emissaries of former governor Ali Dinaporo, who had sent negotiators for the release of Lawrence and the nuns.

Lawrence said on the tape that the group holding him is called the Mindanao Independence Movement. It was not known whether the group is part of the Moro Liberation Front.

President Corazon Aquino Tuesday rejected an original ransom demand of \$10,000 for the freedom of the nuns and ordered the armed forces to take decisive action to end the warlordism and banditry in the province.

But the military appeared to have

stayed their action to allow peace negotiations to proceed first.

Moslem rebels battled against the government of former president Ferdinand Marcos for secession of parts of the southern Philippines in the mid-1970s, killing more than 60,000 people.

But in recent years there have been only sporadic clashes with government soldiers.

Meanwhile, military authorities yesterday said suspected communist rebels killed a former town vice mayor and wounded his brother as the two men left the U.S. Clark Air Base in the northern Philippines.

In another development, an Aquino-appointed panel charged with investigating human rights abuses by the military during Marcos' rule has rejected suggestions from the Philippine armed forces to investigate abuses by the communist rebels.